

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: May 14, 2001

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Wildlife Management Program EIS, (DOE/EIS-0246/SA-15)

TO: Tom Morse – KEW-4
Project Manager

Proposed Action: Western Pond Turtle Recovery - Columbia River Gorge

Project No: 2101300

Work Order No: 00082562

Wildlife Management Techniques of Actions Addressed Under this Supplement Analysis (See App A of the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS):

7.1 Herbicides; 7.2 Mechanical Removal; 8.2 Introduction, Reintroduction, or Augmentation of Wildlife Populations; 8.2 Control of Predators and Nuisance Animals.

Location: Klickitat and Skamania counties, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

Description of the Proposed Action: The WDFW proposes to establish a population of approximately 200 western pond turtles at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Pierce National Wildlife Refuge in Skamania County, Washington. The western pond turtle is specifically identified in the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program as a priority species for mitigation. This effort will focus on the introduction of approximately 80 head-started juvenile turtles (captive reared turtles that have reached a size large enough to reduce their chances of predation) to the refuge during FY 2000 and 2001. This project is a cooperative effort between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Oregon Zoo and the Woodland Park Zoo.

The project objectives are to: 1) inventory and monitor the western pond turtle population in the Columbia River Gorge, 2) conserve and enhance the western pond turtle population, and 3) manage habitat to maximize western pond turtle survival and productivity. These objectives will be carried out through visual surveys, live trapping, predator control (non-native bullfrog populations), introduction of new western pond turtles, and habitat enhancement (vegetation management, basking site improvements, and water level manipulations). The overall goal of the western pond turtle recovery project is to establish a third self-sustaining population of western pond turtles in the Columbia River Gorge.

Analysis: David Anderson, District Wildlife Biologist with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, completed a compliance checklist for the project that meets the standards and guidelines for the Wildlife Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision.

The introduction of 80 western pond turtles at the Pierce National Wildlife Refuge is not expected to have an adverse effect on any threatened or endangered species that may be present at the site. Pierce National Wildlife Refuge provides spawning habitat for the federally threatened chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*). Chum salmon enter the refuge for spawning in late fall when western pond turtles are hibernating. Likewise, fingerling chum salmon depart the refuge in spring when western pond turtles are still hibernating or just emerging. Interactions, food competition and predation of chum salmon are not expected to occur based on the western pond turtles diet, habitat use and timing of hibernation.

Cultural resources will not be affected by the actions proposed as part of this project.

Extensive public involvement has taken place for this project in conjunction with the state species listing process and the development of the western pond turtle recovery plan. The WDFW also maintains a web site that specifically provides the public with updated information about the western pond turtle program.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Sections 7.6A, 7.6B, 7.6C, 11.1, 11.3A, and 11.3H of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds; 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Wildlife Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0246) and ROD, and; 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Shannon Stewart

Shannon C. Stewart

Environmental Project Lead - KEC

CONCUR: /s/ Thomas C. McKinney DATE: 5-14-2001

Thomas C. McKinney

NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

cc: (w/ attachment)

David Anderson - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

H. Nigam - DOE/EH-42

L. Croff - KEC-4

T. McKinney - KEC-4

P. Key - LC-7

Official File - KEC (EQ-14)

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